

The Director

Central Intelligence Agency

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21 MAY 1979

Honorable Edward P. Boland, Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In my letter of 9 March 1979 forwarding a draft Intelligence Authorization Bill to the Speaker of the House, I noted my deep concern about the ability of the Agency's existing statutory authority to support current needs for CIA personnel to carry firearms under certain circumstances. The Administration's proposed revision of the statutory basis under which CIA personnel are authorized to carry firearms is an amendment to subsection 5(d) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949.

This amendment appeared as Title IV of H.R. 2827, the "Intelligence and Intelligence-Related Activities Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1980," which you introduced on 13 March. The Subcommittee on Legislation held an open hearing on the proposal on 4 April, at which my Director of Security and Deputy General Counsel presented testimony.

The firearms authority amendment was not included in H.R. 3821, the revised Authorization Bill which you introduced on 1 May. I can understand the Committee's reluctance to include permanent statutory revisions in the annual authorization act, but I continue to believe that although clarification of the Agency's firearms authority is addressed in proposed Intelligence Charter Legislation, it is of sufficient importance and urgency to warrant separate prompt action.

I would, therefore, appreciate having your views as to the Committee's plans for further action on our firearms amendment.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER

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